



WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT, CYCLE A

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"The man that was once blind said, 'I do believe, Lord' and he worshiped Him." Jn 9:38

For this fourth Sunday in Lent we are given the gift of a wonderful story. It is about not seeing the light, being afraid to see the light, seeing the light, and refusing to see the light. The man born blind could not see the light until Jesus, "*the light of the world,*" covered his eyes with mud, sent him to the pool to wash and restored his sight. A veritable treasure of Lenten, baptismal, and messianic images tumble out before us in this story.

The mudpack Jesus uses as salve reminds us of the dust we came from and to which we shall return. The pool of Siloam, which means "*one who has been sent*" reminds us of the waters of baptism as well as of the Christ who has been sent from God, who in turns sends us forth fully illuminated spiritually through our baptismal commission to bring light into the world.

There are also characters in this scripture story who are blind and are obstinate in their desire to remain that way. The Pharisees are a rigid stiff-necked people, intractable in their reluctance to believe the simple story of this simple man. He tells the simple story of his cure over and over to ears that choose not to hear and hardened hearts that refuse the gift of spiritual sight. "*I was blind. I did what this Jesus told me to do. Now I see.*"

The parents of the blind man are afraid to witness what Jesus did as evidenced in their reluctance to get involved for fear of causing themselves trouble. The reader is struck by the obstacles to something so new and wonderful. This is a reminder for us of the many people in every generation that find the good news too good to be true.

The most remarkable conversion in this scripture is that of the beggar, blind from birth, who became an ambassador for Jesus, insisting that he must be from God or else he could not perform such wonderful works. For this brave act he is exiled. But Jesus seeks him out and takes his belief one final step further, into the ultimate kind of seeing - into faith in the Son of God.

In the end, we are reminded the old saying, "There are none so blind as those that who will not see." And truthfully there are some even more blind than that. They are the ones who are blind but are convinced that they do see.

This week, let us ponder the mystery of the Incarnation that has led the human race that walked in darkness into the radiance of the Light of Christ. We, who were born in slavery to ancient sin, through the waters of regeneration are free at last, and are welcomed as adopted children into the Kingdom of God, on earth as it is in heaven.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.
He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva,
and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him,
"Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —.
So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,
"Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?"
Some said, "It is,"
but others said, "No, he just looks like him."
He said, "I am."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.
Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a Sabbath.
So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.
He said to them,
"He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see."
So some of the Pharisees said,
"This man is not from God,
because he does not keep the Sabbath."
But others said,
"How can a sinful man do such signs?"
And there was a division among them.
So they said to the blind man again,
"What do you have to say about him,
since he opened your eyes?"
He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered and said to him,
"You were born totally in sin,
and are you trying to teach us?"
Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said,
"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

He answered and said,
"Who is he, sir that I may believe in him?"

Jesus said to him,
*"You have seen him, and
the one speaking with you is he."*

He said,
"I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

The Gospel of the Lord